

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-9 Canceled

10. (Currently Amended) An article having reduced break-out force and reduced sliding frictional force comprising one or more surfaces and a lubricant applied to at least one of the surfaces, the lubricant including a fluorochemical compound selected from the group consisting of a perfluoropolyether, a functionalized perfluoropolyether, ~~a polychlorotrifluoroethylene~~ and mixtures thereof, the lubricant-coated surface subsequently exposed to an energy source at about atmospheric pressure, wherein the energy source is ionizing radiation.

11. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 10 wherein the lubricant is mixed with a solvent to form a lubricant-solvent solution prior to applying the lubricant to the surface.

12. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 11 wherein the coated surface is heated, the heating step occurring after applying the lubricant-solvent solution to the surface and prior to exposing the coated surface to the energy source.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 10 wherein the lubricant contains additives selected from one or more groups comprising free radical initiators, viscosity modifiers, surfactants, wetting agents, anticorrosive agents, antioxidants, antiwear agents, buffering agents, dyes and mixtures thereof.

15. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 10 wherein the energy source is an ionizing gas plasma at about atmospheric pressure.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 15 wherein the gas is selected from one or more groups comprising helium, neon, argon, krypton, air, oxygen, carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, water vapor, nitrogen, hydrogen and mixtures thereof.

18. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 15, wherein the surface is additionally exposed to the ionizing gas plasma prior to applying the lubricant.

19-24 Canceled

25. (Currently Amended) An article having reduced break-out force and reduced sliding frictional force comprising one or more surfaces, at least one of the surfaces exposed to an ionizing gas plasma at about atmospheric pressure and a lubricant applied to the plasma-treated surface to form a coated surface, the lubricant including a fluorochemical compound selected from the group consisting of a perfluoropolyether, a functionalized perfluoropolyether, a ~~polychlorotrifluoroethylene~~ and mixtures thereof.

26. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 25 wherein the gas is selected from one or more groups comprising helium, neon, argon, krypton, air, oxygen, carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, water vapor, nitrogen, hydrogen and mixtures thereof.

27. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 25 wherein the lubricant is mixed with a solvent to form a lubricant-solvent solution prior to applying the lubricant to the surface.

28. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 25 wherein the coated surface is heated, the heating step occurring after applying the lubricant to the surface.

29. (Canceled)

30. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 25 wherein the lubricant contains additives selected from one or more groups comprising free radical initiators, viscosity modifiers, surfactants, wetting agents, anticorrosive agents, antioxidants, antiwear agents, buffering agents, dyes and mixtures thereof.

31. (Canceled)

32. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 15, wherein the article is a syringe barrel, the syringe barrel including an inner surface coated with a perfluoropolyether and exposed to the

ionizing gas plasma at about atmospheric pressure after being coated with the perfluoropolyether.

33. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 32, wherein the inner surface is additionally exposed to the ionizing gas plasma prior to applying the perfluoropolyether.

34. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 33, wherein the syringe barrel is a polypropylene syringe barrel.

35. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 33, wherein the syringe barrel is a glass syringe barrel.

36-37 Canceled

38. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 25, wherein the article is a syringe barrel, and the coated surface is an inner surface of the syringe barrel.

39. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 25, wherein the article is a glass syringe barrel, and the coated surface is an inner surface of the glass syringe barrel.

40. (New) An article having reduced break-out force and reduced sliding frictional force comprising one or more surfaces, at least one of the surfaces exposed to a first ionizing gas plasma at about atmospheric pressure and a lubricant applied to the plasma-treated surface to form a coated surface, the lubricant including a fluorochemical compound selected from the group consisting of a perfluoropolyether, a functionalized perfluoropolyether, and mixtures thereof, wherein the coated surface is subsequently exposed to a second ionizing gas plasma at about atmospheric pressure.

41. (New) The article of claim 40, wherein the first and second ionizing gas plasmas are essentially the same.

42. (New) The article of claim 10 wherein the ionizing radiation is gamma radiation.